

DELL

NO. 910 10¢

A MOVIE
CLASSIC

the Vikings



Eric's dragon ships conquered an empire!

A Kirk Douglas Production released through United Artists



Vikings sail the northern seas...



to pillage, raid, conquer...



and set brother against brother...



for a nation's wealth...



and the hand of its queen.

KIRK DOUGLAS
TONY CURTIS-JANET LEIGH
ERNEST BORGNINE

in

"THE VIKINGS"

with

James Donald • Alexander Knox

Screen Play by Noel Langley and Calder Willingham

Based on a Novel by Edison Marshall

Produced by Jerry Bresler. Directed by Richard Fleischer

A Kirk Douglas Production

Released through United Artists in

TECHNIRAMA® TECHNICOLOR®

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the Vikings

AS THE NORTHLAND SUMMER ENDS, RAGNAR, THE VIKING CHIEFTAIN, LEADS A HUNT ACROSS HIS VAST DOMAINS...

AYE, MASTER, I WILL FOLLOW YOU!

FOLLOW THOSE GROUSE INTO THE BRUSH! STAY NEAR WITH THAT FOOD CART, ERIC! WE'LL WANT MEAT AND DRINK SOON!

BUT EINAR, RAGNAR'S SON, HAS PLANS OF HIS OWN...

ERIC, LET MY FATHER GO AHEAD! WE'LL TURN OFF TOWARD THE LAKE!

I WANT TO FLY MY FALCONS AT THE DUCKS DOWN THERE.

AS YOU WISH, YOUNG MASTER!

MASTER, I TOO, HAVE A FALCON I WOULD LIKE TO FLY. I CALL HER ODIN'S ARROW!

ONLY NOBLES ARE ALLOWED TO FLY HAWKS. WHERE DID YOU STEAL HER, SLAVE?

I FOUND HER LAST WINTER, FROZEN FAST TO A TREE. I SCHOOLED HER IN MY FREE TIME.

YOUR TIME IS **NOT** FREE! IT BELONGS TO YOUR MASTER. STILL, LET US SEE HER FLY.

BY ODIN! SHE'S **BETTER** THAN ANY HAWK **YOU** OWN, EINAR!

A FALCON FIT FOR A KING TO FLY-- WHAT A PITY SHE BELONGS TO A SLAVE.

AS THE FALCON RETURNS WITH HER KILL...



BUT EINAR'S SWORD HAS DONE ITS WORK...



IN THE MEAD-HALL ERIC FACES HIS MASTER DEFIANTLY...





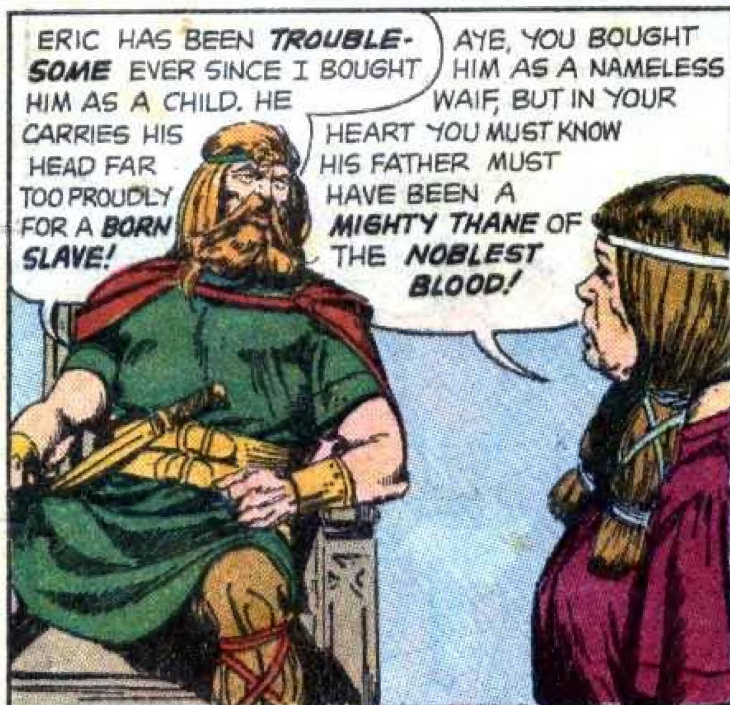
YOU'VE EARNED A DEATH BY TORTURE, BUT I'LL BE MERCIFUL. YOU'LL BE **SACRIFICED** TO THE WAR-GOD ODIN!

RAGNAR-- I ASK LEAVE TO SPEAK.



EGBERT OF NORTHUMBRIA-- THOUGH YOU ARE IN EXILE FROM ENGLAND, YOU ARE A THANE--A NOBLE OF MY COURT. YOU HAVE MY LEAVE TO SPEAK.

IN MY LAND THEY WOULD **NOT** CALL IT MERCY TO KILL A STRIPLING WHO SHOWED SUCH COURAGE.



ERIC HAS BEEN **TROUBLE-SOME** EVER SINCE I BOUGHT HIM AS A CHILD. HE CARRIES HIS HEAD FAR TOO PROUDLY FOR A **BORN SLAVE!**

AYE, YOU BOUGHT HIM AS A NAMELESS WAIF, BUT IN YOUR HEART YOU MUST KNOW HIS FATHER MUST HAVE BEEN A **MIGHTY THANE OF THE NOBLEST BLOOD!**



ENOUGH! CAST THE SLAVE INTO THE SEA. IF HE'S STILL ALIVE WHEN THE TIDE TURNS, ANY THANE WHO FISHES HIM OUT MAY HAVE HIM!

AS NIGHT FALLS ALONG THE NORTHLAND SHORE...



IF HE MAKES NO STRUGGLE, HIS END WILL BE **QUICK AND MERCIFUL!**

NO! ERIC CANNOT DIE THIS WAY!



LOOK-- HE IS **ON HIS FEET!**

AYE, HE HAS **COURAGE!** BUT HOW LONG CAN HE LAST IN THAT **FREEZING WATER AND RISING TIDE?**

AS NIGHT FALLS, THE ICY TIDE RISES SWIFTLY...



AS THE VIKING WAR CRY ECHOES...



IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, ERIC AND KITTI WORK IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF EGBERT OF NORTHUMBRIA...





AND HE CAME TO ME WEARING A **TALISMAN** -- THIS RING OF GLITTERING STONE!

THAT STONE IS NOTHING BUT **FOOL'S GOLD!** IT IS **NO** PROOF THAT ERIC IS HIGH BORN!



HIGH BORN OR LOW, I'M A **NORTHMAN**--AND SOMEDAY I WILL BE A GREAT WARRIOR!

NORTHMAN OR PIG DROVER-- YOU'RE STILL **MY** SLAVE, ERIC!



STILL, YOU'VE GOT A WAY WITH FALCONS, SO I'LL PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF MY HAWKS!

MASTER, YOU SAVED MY LIFE. I WILL SERVE YOU FAITHFULLY.



THE BEAR! MY ARROW WILL **NOT** STOP HIM!

MY SPEAR IS READY, MASTER!



WELL THROWN, ERIC!

RAHHHRR!



LET ALL MEN KNOW THAT ERIC IS **NO** LONGER MY SLAVE! THE MOMENT THAT SPEAR LEFT HIS HAND, I SET HIM FREE!

THE NEXT DAY, IN EGBERT'S HALL...



ERIC, YOU ARE A FREE MAN NOW! BUT I HAVE GREAT NEED FOR A MAN OF YOUR WIT AND COURAGE.

MY HAND WILL **ALWAYS** BE EAGER TO SERVE YOU, EGBERT!



LISTEN, AND MARK ME WELL. FOR CENTURIES THE NORTHMEN HAVE BEEN RAIDING THE COAST OF EUROPE.

TRUE. EACH YEAR OUR DRAGON SHIPS RETURN LADEN WITH GOLD, SILVER AND GLITTERING JEWELS!



THE VIKINGS RULE A VAST DOMAIN-- IRELAND, ORKNEY AND THE HEBRIDES. EVEN PART OF THE FRANKISH KINGDOM.

AND SOON WE WILL CONQUER **ENGLAND**, TOO! EVERY NORTHMAN DREAMS OF IT!



AYE. AND WHEN RAGNAR LEADS THE VIKING FLEET TO ENGLAND, I WILL RETURN WITH HIM TO CLAIM THE LANDS AND EARLDOM THAT WERE **TAKEN** FROM ME!

YOU ARE AN ENGLISHMAN. HOW COME YOU RUN WITH THE HARE AND THE HOUNDS?



IT IS A LONG STORY. KING AELLA OF NORTHUMBRIA IS A **FALSE KING**! HE TOOK MY LANDS AND EXILED ME BECAUSE I DEFIED HIM.

RAGNAR MAY NOT GIVE YOU BACK YOUR LANDS. HE MAY TURN THEM OVER TO HIS SONS!



TRUE. BUT THE NORTH-UMBRIANS HATE RAGNAR! AND WHEN THEY **REVOLT**, I'LL BE THERE TO LEAD THEM!

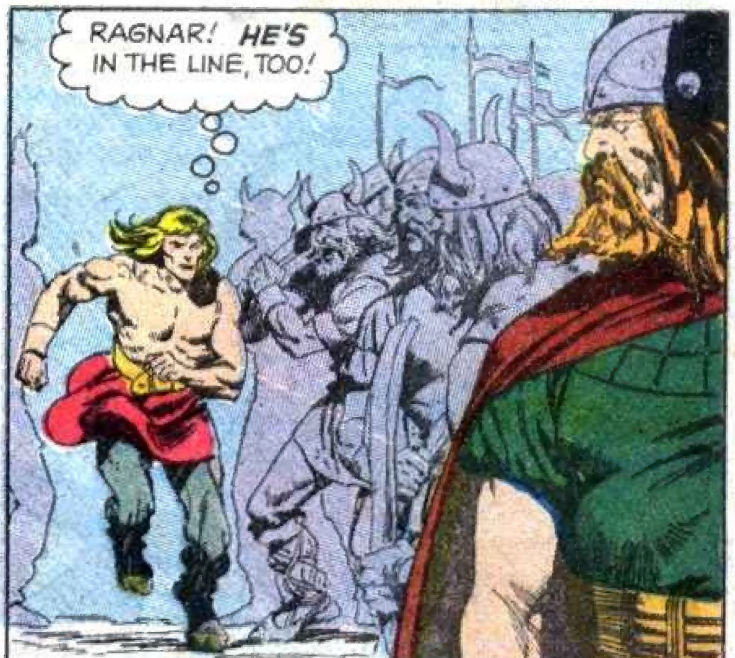
I SEE. AND WHY DO THE NORTHUMBRIANS HATE RAGNAR SO?



THE MONTHS PASS SWIFTLY. AT THE EASTER FEAST, THE UNTRIED YOUNG NORTHMEN GATHER FOR THEIR FIRST TEST AS VIKINGS...



BUT AS ERIC RACES THROUGH THE GAUNTLET...

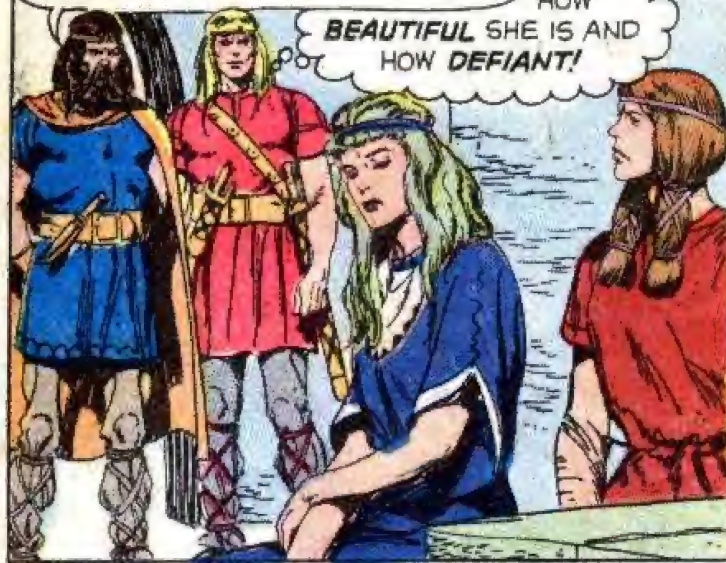




SOON AFTERWARD, IN RAGNAR'S HALL...

THERE SHE IS--THE PRINCESS MORGANA. THE MAID BESIDE HER IS HER COMPANION, BERTHA. WE WILL BEGIN THE QUESTIONING AT ONCE!

HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE IS AND HOW DEFIANT!



HOW MUCH WOULD AELLA PAY FOR HIS STOLEN BRIDE?

AELLA WOULD PAY **NOTHING** TO THE SON OF RAGNAR--THE VIKING WHO LOOTED AND BURNED ALL NORTHUMBRIA!



ENOUGH OF THIS SENSELESS YAMMERING IN THAT ENGLISH TONGUE. IF NO ONE WILL RANSOM HER, THEN I WILL MARRY HER MYSELF-- THIS NEXT MID-SUMMER EVE!

I THINK SHE'D RATHER MARRY A BEAST OF THE FIELD!



AS THE QUESTIONING BEGINS...

MORGANA, EINAR WANTS TO KNOW WHAT YOUR FATHER WOULD PAY FOR YOUR SAFE RETURN!

MY FATHER SENT ME TO AELLA WITH A GOOD DOWRY. EINAR HAS **STOLEN** THAT MONEY. MY FATHER HAS **NO MORE LEFT TO PAY** MY RANSOM!



AND YOU--YOU WHO SPEAK OUR ENGLISH TONGUE! ARE YOU ONE OF **THEM**--THOSE **THIEVES AND MURDERERS**?

MORGANA--I WOULD **HELP** YOU ESCAPE IF I COULD! BUT IT WOULD BE HOPELESS.



ERIC, YOU'VE TRIED TO HELP ME. I HAVE NO GOLD TO REPAY YOU, BUT IT IS OUR ROYAL CUSTOM TO REWARD WITH A **KISS**!

NO MAN COULD ASK A **GREATER** REWARD, MORGANA OF WALES!





LATER, OUTSIDE KITTI'S HUT...







WE MUST GO **NOW!**

THEN COME! THE BOAT IS WAITING!

SOON AFTERWARD...



THEY HAVEN'T MISSED US YET!

A PITY. I SHOULD WAKEN THEM FOR THE OCCASION!

SECONDS LATER, THE CHALLENGE OF A VIKING WARRIOR RESOUNDS ACROSS THE BAY...



ODIN!
ODIN!

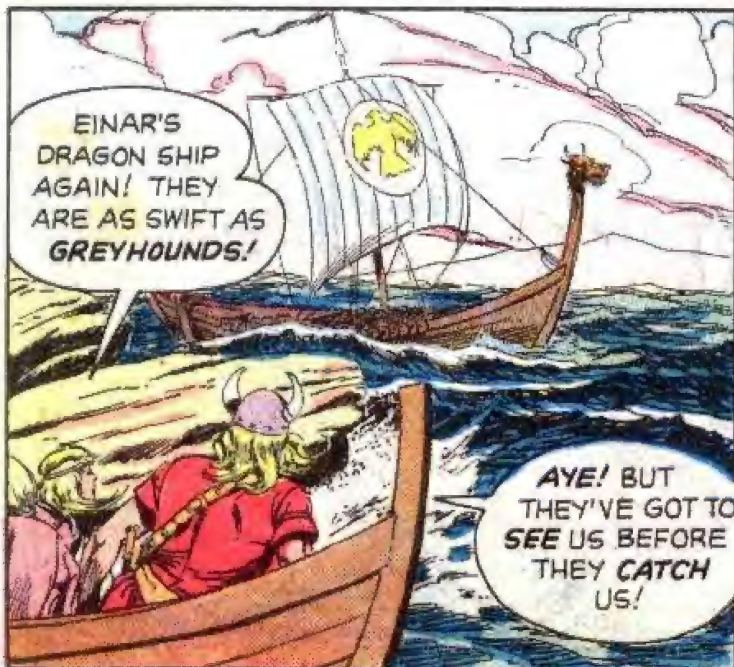
SOMETHING'S HAPPENED! SOUND THE ALARM!



MORGANA HAS ESCAPED! SOMEONE SAW A BOAT HEAD-ING DOWN THE BAY!

CALL MY FATHER'S THANES! WE PUT TO SEA **AT ONCE!**

THE NEXT DAY, EINAR'S SHIPS SCOUR THE COAST...



EINAR'S DRAGON SHIP AGAIN! THEY ARE AS SWIFT AS GREYHOUNDS!

AYE! BUT THEY'VE GOT TO SEE US BEFORE THEY CATCH US!

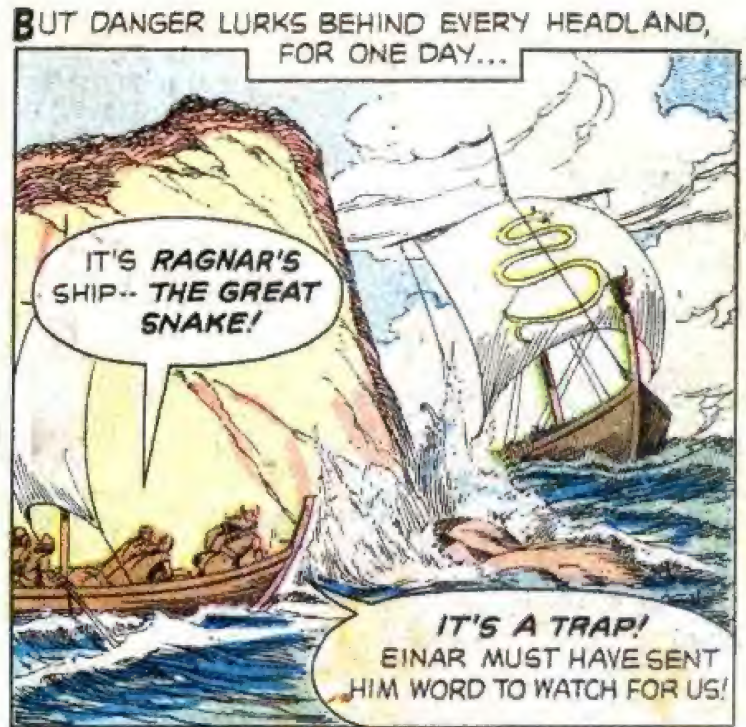


FOR WEEKS, THE DEADLY GAME OF HARE AND HOUNDS GOES ON!



ERIC, YOU'RE RISKING SO MUCH. MY BETROTHED, AELLA, WILL BE GRATEFUL!

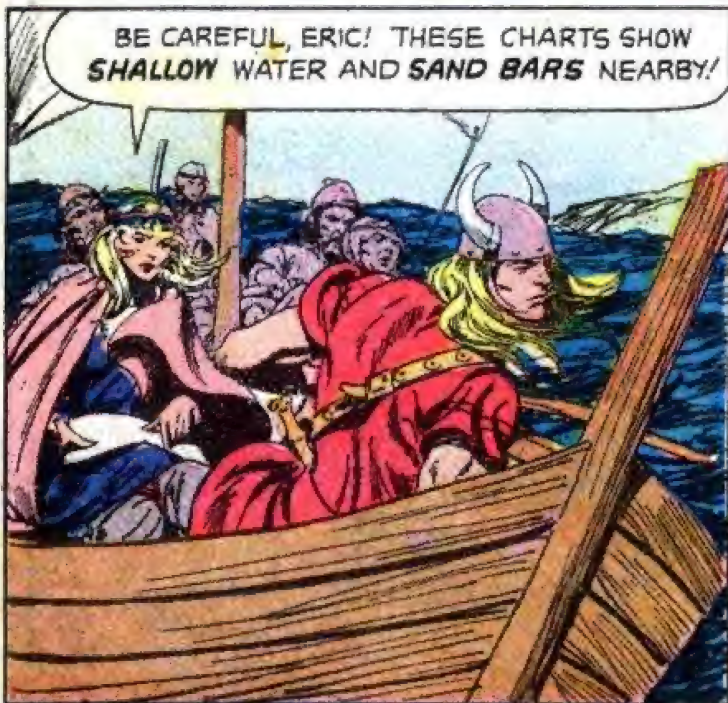
I'M NOT DOING THIS FOR AELLA! SAVE YOUR GRATITUDE UNTIL THE END OF THE JOURNEY!



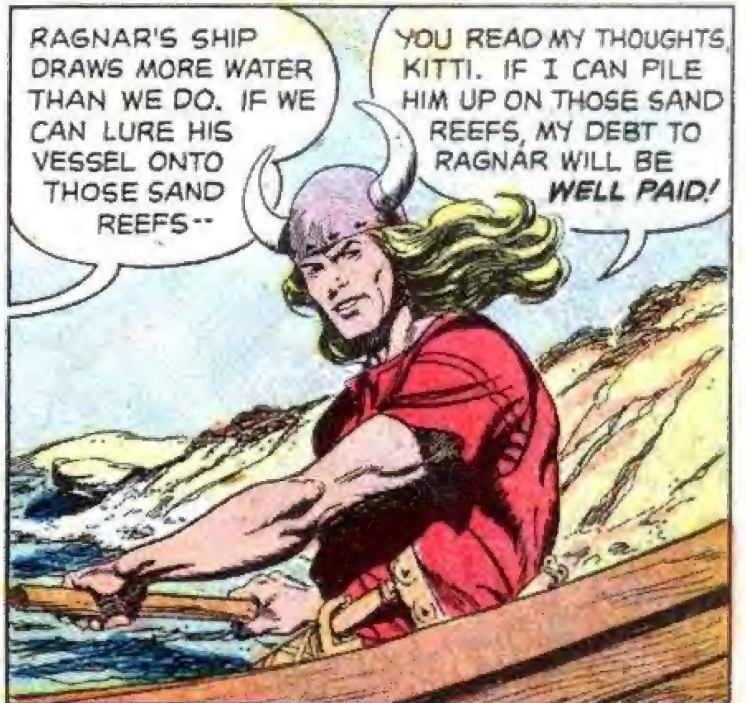
BUT DANGER LURKS BEHIND EVERY HEADLAND, FOR ONE DAY...

IT'S RAGNAR'S SHIP-- THE GREAT SNAKE!

IT'S A TRAP!
EINAR MUST HAVE SENT HIM WORD TO WATCH FOR US!

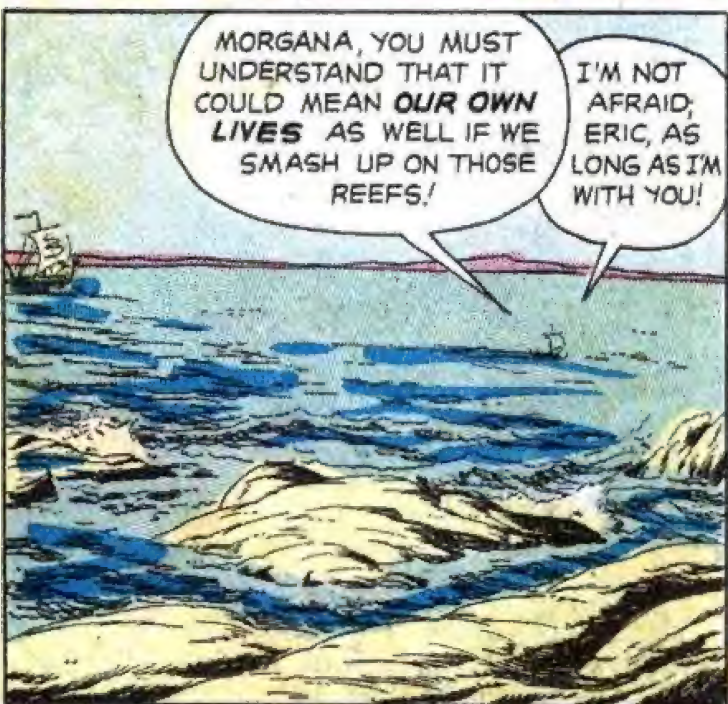


BE CAREFUL, ERIC! THESE CHARTS SHOW SHALLOW WATER AND SAND BARS NEARBY!



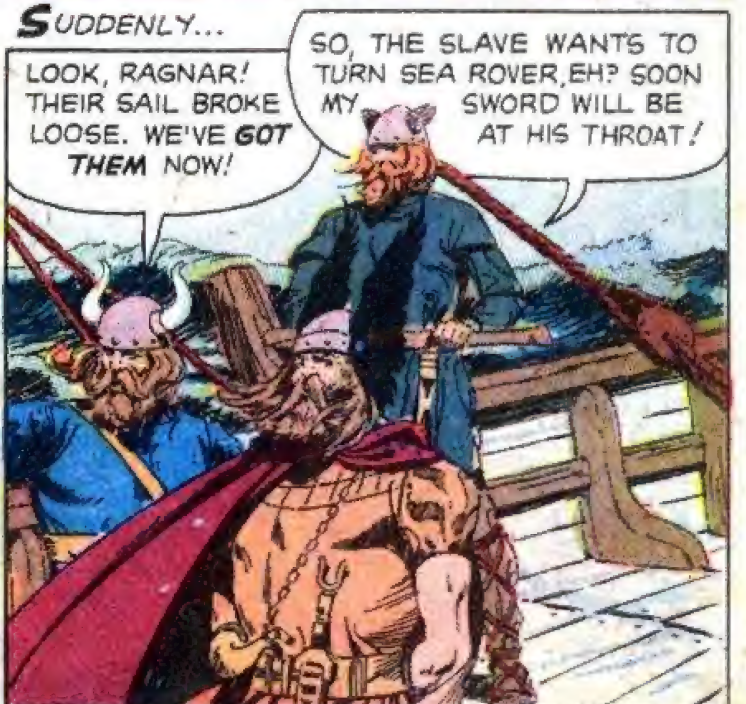
RAGNAR'S SHIP DRAWS MORE WATER THAN WE DO. IF WE CAN LURE HIS VESSEL ONTO THOSE SAND REEFS--

YOU READ MY THOUGHTS, KITTI. IF I CAN PILE HIM UP ON THOSE SAND REEFS, MY DEBT TO RAGNAR WILL BE WELL PAID!



MORGANA, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT IT COULD MEAN **OUR OWN LIVES** AS WELL IF WE SMASH UP ON THOSE REEFS!

I'M NOT AFRAID, ERIC, AS LONG AS I'M WITH YOU!



SUDDENLY...

LOOK, RAGNAR! THEIR SAIL BROKE LOOSE. WE'VE GOT THEM NOW!

SO, THE SLAVE WANTS TO TURN SEA ROVER, EH? SOON MY SWORD WILL BE AT HIS THROAT!

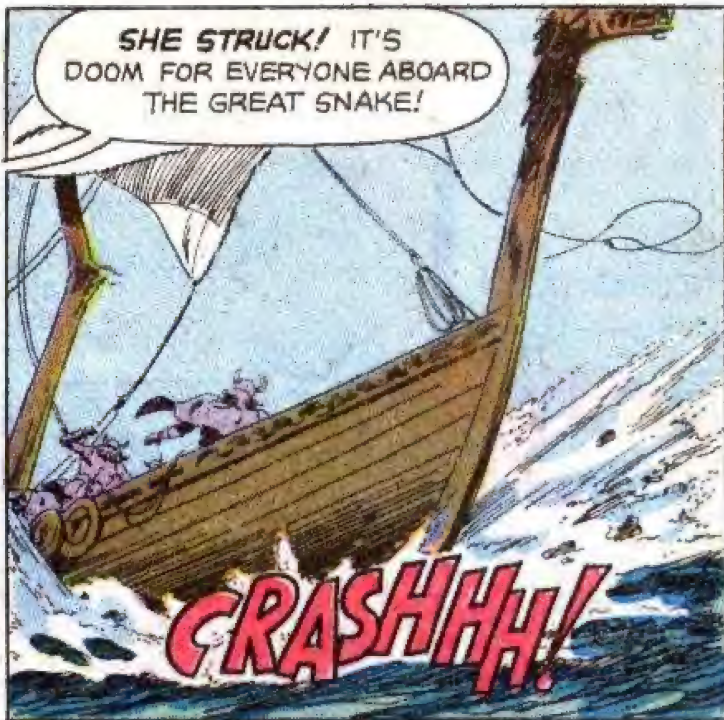
BUT THE FLAPPING SAIL WAS ONLY A TRICK TO LURE THE SEA-DRAGON ON, AND...

IT WORKED! HE'S TRYING SO HARD TO CATCH US THAT HE DOESN'T REALIZE HE'S HEADING INTO SHOAL WATERS!

WE'RE PASSING OVER THE SAND REEF NOW! IN ANOTHER SECOND--



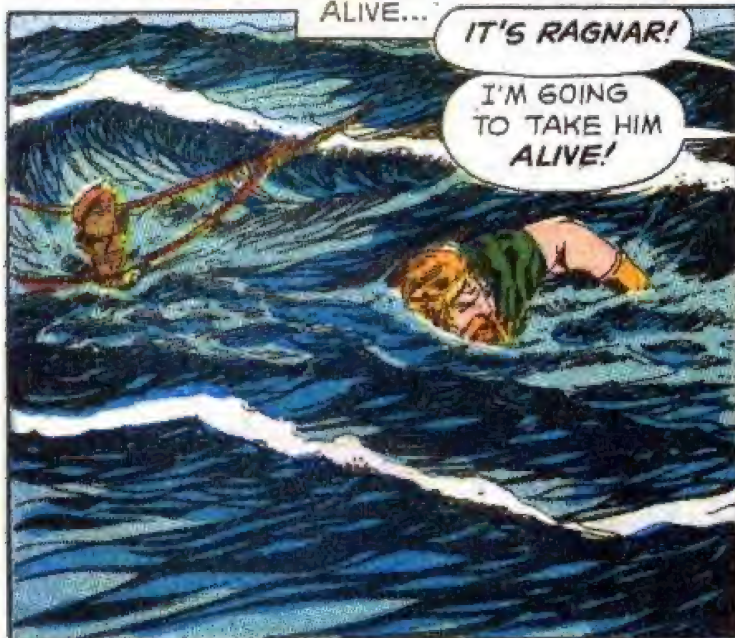
SHE STRUCK! IT'S DOOM FOR EVERYONE ABOARD THE GREAT SNAKE!



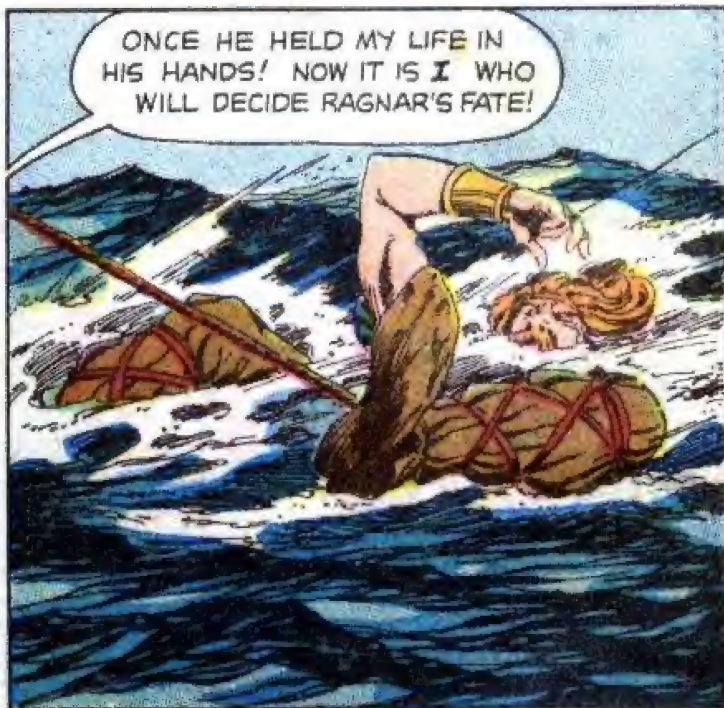
WITHIN MINUTES, THE SEA SWALLOWS THE CREW OF THE WRECKED SHIP... BUT ONE MAN REMAINS ALIVE...

IT'S RAGNAR!

I'M GOING TO TAKE HIM ALIVE!



ONCE HE HELD MY LIFE IN HIS HANDS! NOW IT IS **I** WHO WILL DECIDE RAGNAR'S FATE!



THAT NIGHT ON A SANDY SHORE...

NO, MORGANA.

SO THAT IS YOUR VENGEANCE ON RAGNAR-- TO MAKE HIM YOUR CHAINED SLAVE!

I WILL SELL HIM TO AELLA AS A SLAVE. I SHOULD GET A FINE PRICE FOR THE MAN WHO ONCE **RAIDED NORTH-UMBRIA!**



WHAT PRICE WILL YOU ASK?

THAT AELLA **RELEASE** YOU FROM YOUR PROMISE TO MARRY HIM SO THAT YOU WILL BE FREE TO WED **ANOTHER!**



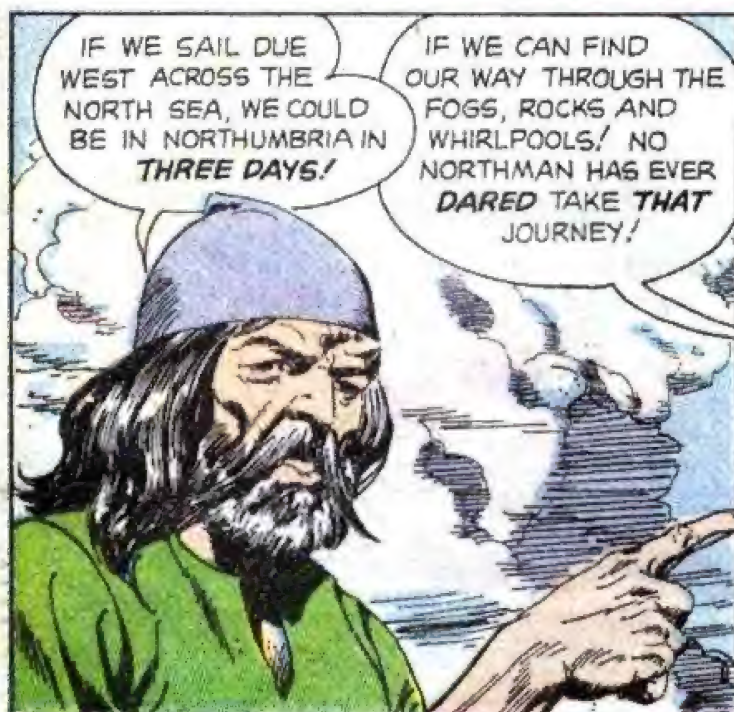


ERIC--
HIGH-BORN
OR LOW, I WOULD
BE **PROUD** TO
BE YOUR
WIFE!



NEXT MORNING...
DOVER IS THE ONLY PLACE
WHERE A BOAT THIS SMALL CAN
CROSS TO ENGLAND! THE JOURNEY
DOWN THE COAST WOULD TAKE
US TWENTY DAYS!

NO, ERIC!
THERE IS
ANOTHER
WAY!



IF WE SAIL DUE
WEST ACROSS THE
NORTH SEA, WE COULD
BE IN NORTHUMBRIA IN
THREE DAYS!

IF WE CAN FIND
OUR WAY THROUGH THE
FOGS, ROCKS AND
WHIRLPOOLS! NO
NORTHMAN HAS EVER
DARED TAKE THAT
JOURNEY!



BUT NO DANGER IS
AS GREAT AS EINAR'S
FLEET! **UP SAIL!!** WE
HEAD DUE WEST!

BY ODIN! NOT
EVEN I, RAGNAR,
DARED SPREAD MY
SAILS ON THE
NORTH SEA!



BUT THE NEXT DAY, THE FUGITIVES ARE CAUGHT
IN A DEAD CALM...

NOT A BREATH
OF AIR FOR HOURS,
AND WITH THE CLOUDS
HIDING THE SUN, WE
CAN'T TELL WHICH
WAY TO ROW.

PERHAPS
I CAN HELP,
ERIC!



WHAT IS IT,
SANDPIPER?

THIS HAS THE
STRANGE POWER OF
POINTING IN THE
DIRECTION OF THE
NORTH STAR!



THE WEST LIES **THAT** WAY! SET YOUR COURSE, ERIC!

BY ODIN! IF I HAD SUCH A MAGIC FISH TO KEEP ME ON COURSE, I COULD HAVE RAIDED ENGLAND ACROSS THIS VERY SEA.



THE JOURNEY WOULD TAKE BUT A FORTNIGHT. I COULD LOAD MY SHIP WITH WARRIORS INSTEAD OF STORES AND COMB UP THE RICHES FROM THE **WHOLE COUNTRY!**

AYE. WITH A LITTLE MAGIC FISH, YOU COULD BE **KING OF ENGLAND** INSTEAD OF MY PRISONER!

AND SANDPIPER'S CRUDE COMPASS GUIDES THEM ACROSS THE SEA...



LAND! THIS IS THE NORTHUMBRIAN COAST! UP THAT RIVER MOUTH IS THE ROYAL CITY OF YORK AND THE PALACE OF AELLA, THE KING.

THEN WE MOVE UP-STREAM AT ONCE.



NORTHUMBRIA, HA! I **RAIDED** IT BUT TWENTY ODD YEARS AGO!

I HOPE AELLA AND HIS PEOPLE **REMEMBER** YOUR CONQUESTS, TOO!

AT THE ROYAL CITY OF YORK...



BERTHA, GO TO AELLA AND TELL HIM THAT HIS BRIDE HAS ARRIVED!

YES, ERIC.

THE NEXT DAY, THE FUGITIVES ARE SUMMONED TO THE ROYAL COURT...



I AM AELLA, KING OF NORTHUMBRIA. WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE?

I AM ERIC THE DANE. I HAVE BROUGHT TWO CAPTIVES WITH ME--YOUR BETROTHED, MORGANA, AND RAGNAR, YOUR COUNTRY'S WORST ENEMY!



I ASK A BARGAIN!
WILL YOU TRADE ME
YOUR CLAIM ON
MORGANA FOR
MY CLAIM ON
RAGNAR?

WHAT? RENOUNCE
MY BETROTHAL!



AS KING, I
COULD **REFUSE**
YOUR OFFER
AND--

ERIC WOULD TAKE
ME ANYWAY--AND I WOULD
GO WILLINGLY!



THESE CURSED PIRATES
HAVE ALREADY STOLEN MY
BRIDE'S **DOWRY**. NOW, THEY
WANT TO STEAL **MY BRIDE**!

SOFTLY, AELLA.
NOW THAT YOU'VE
COUNTED YOUR
LOSSES, LET US
DISCUSS YOUR
GAINS!



VENGEANCE ON RAGNAR HAS BEEN THE
WATCHCRY OF ALL EUROPE. DESTROY HIM
AND YOUR NAME WILL GO DOWN IN SONG
AND STORY. WHAT'S A BROKEN BETROTHAL
TO THAT?

YOU
SPEAK
WISELY,
GODWIN!



ERIC, I HAVE RECONSIDERED.
I HEREBY RENOUNCE MY
BETROTHAL TO MORGANA AND
RELEASE HER FROM HER VOWS.

AND I IN TURN
RELEASE RAGNAR
INTO **YOUR HANDS**!



AND NOW, LET
US DISCUSS THE
MANNER OF RAGNAR'S
EXECUTION...

OH, KING-- RAGNAR
IS A VIKING, BORN TO
BATTLE. SO LET HIM
DIE FIGHTING HIS
GREATEST FOE,
THE SEA!



SOON AFTERWARD, AT THE RIVERBANK...



LATER, BACK IN THE KING'S HALL...

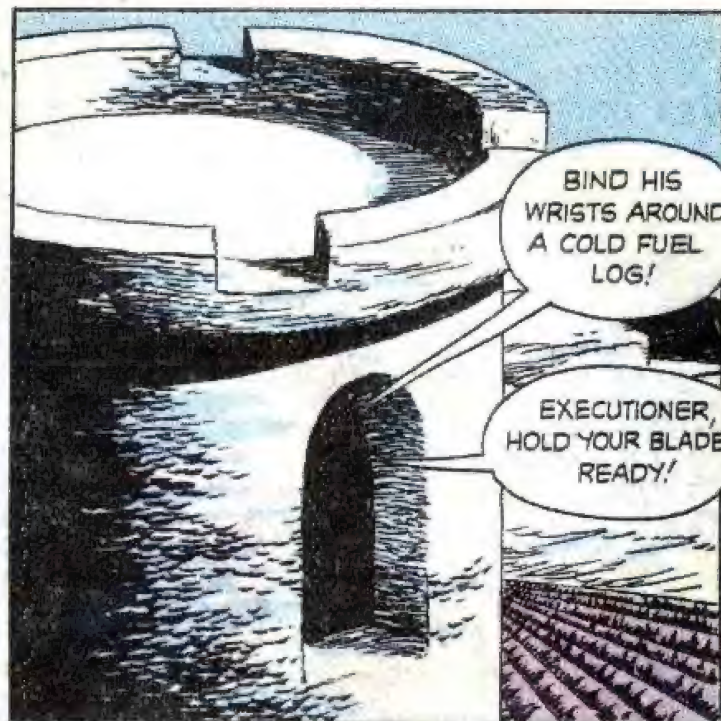






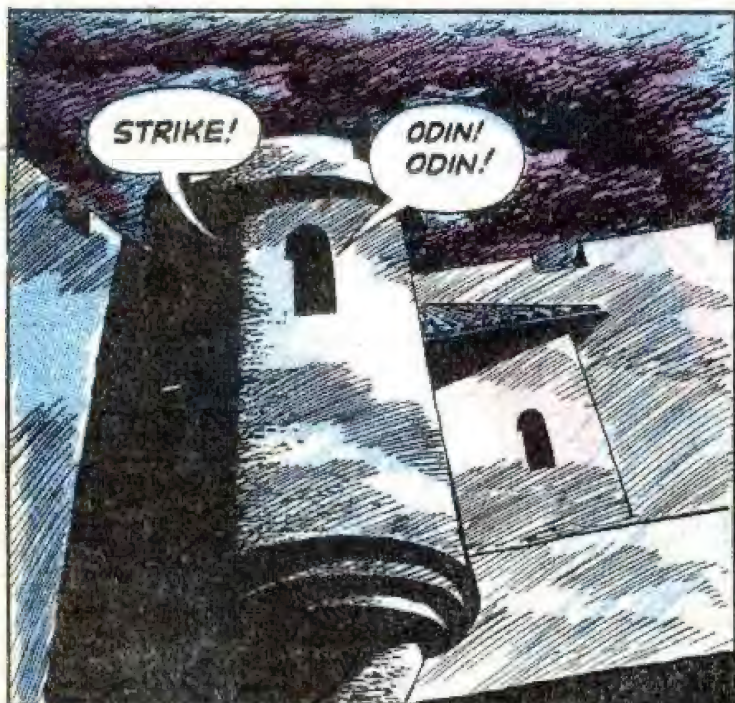
ERIC, YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT I WOULD PUNISH YOU IF YOU CAME BACK!

AYE, I KNEW.



BIND HIS WRISTS AROUND A COLD FUEL LOG!

EXECUTIONER, HOLD YOUR BLADE READY!



STRIKE!

ODIN!
ODIN!



NOW SEE TO IT THAT THEY ARE ALL ABOARD THEIR BOAT AND HEADED SEAWARD!



IN THE LONG MONTHS THAT FOLLOW, A SILENT GROUP OF EXILES HAUNT THE SEA COVES OF THE ENGLISH COAST...



I MUST GO BACK FOR MORGANA. BUT WHAT WEAPONS COULD I WIELD WITH **ONE** HAND?

THERE ARE WEAPONS OTHER THAN THE BOW AND THE SPEAR, ERIC. THERE ARE CUNNING AND KNOWLEDGE...





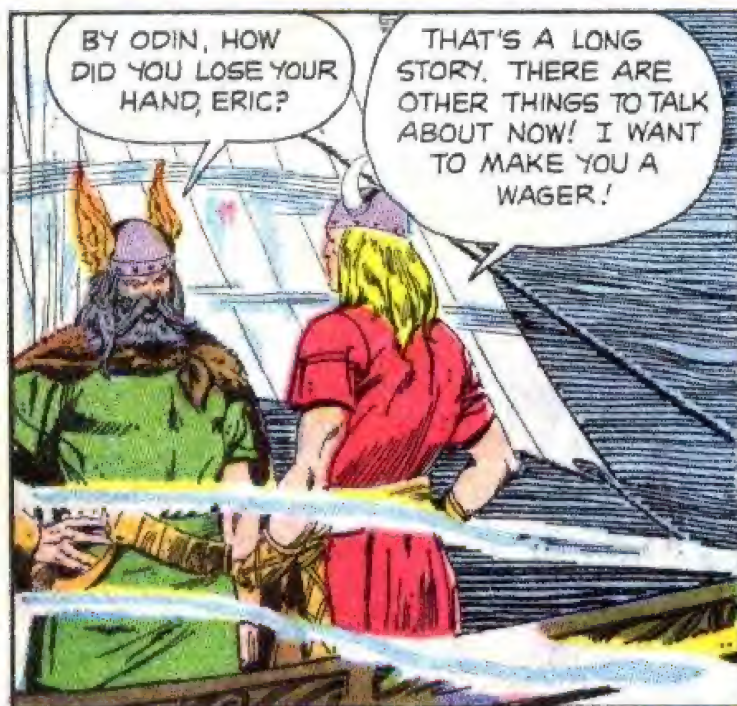
IT IS I, **ERIC, THE DANE!** CAN I COME ABOARD WITH MY WITCH WOMAN, KITTI?

AYE! BRING HER ABOARD! LUCKY THE SHIP THAT HAS A WOMAN LIKE KITTI TO READ THE WEATHER SIGNS!



WILL YOU LET ME COME AND GO IN PEACE, SIGURD?

I BEAR YOU NO ILL WILL, ERIC. WE NORSEMEN PUT NO PRICE ON YOUR HEAD. THE QUARREL LIES BETWEEN YOU AND EINAR. --HE WANTS IT THAT WAY!



BY ODIN, HOW DID YOU LOSE YOUR HAND, ERIC?

THAT'S A LONG STORY. THERE ARE OTHER THINGS TO TALK ABOUT NOW! I WANT TO MAKE YOU A WAGER!



SIGURD, YOU ARE A SKILLED CAPTAIN. COULD YOU SHOW ME WHERE TO FIND THE **NEAREST** POINT OF LAND?

THERE'S A RIVER'S MOUTH ABOUT A LEAGUE DUE SOUTH! BUT **NO MAN** COULD POINT IT OUT IN THIS FOG!



I'LL WAGER YOU A CASK OF ALE THAT KITTI CAN **FIND** THE RIVER'S MOUTH!

IN THIS FOG? I'LL TAKE THAT WAGER, ERIC!



HAVE YOUR MEN TAKE TO THE OARS. KITTI NEEDS BUT A MOMENT TO SET UP HER TENT!

OUT OARS! GET THE SHIP UNDER WAY!

AS THE DRAGON SHIP MOVES OUT INTO THE MIST THE VIKINGS WATCH A STRANGE THING...



AS THEY PASS OTHER DRAGON SHIPS CAUGHT IN THE FOG...



AS THE FOG LIFTS...



AS THE WORD SPREADS THROUGH THE VIKING FLEET...



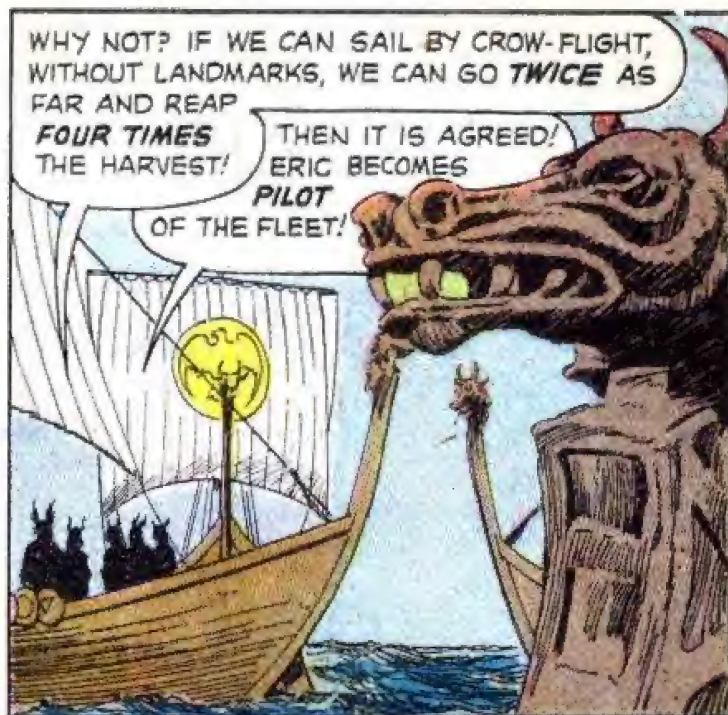
AS THE FOEMEN STAND FACE TO FACE...





I HAVE HEARD GREAT MARVELS OF YOUR KITTI. WHAT WILL YOU CHARGE TO GUIDE OUR FLEET TO THE GATES OF HERCULES?

FOR MAGIC SUCH AS HERS, I SHOULD RECEIVE AN **EQUAL SHARE** IN THE **SPOILS!**



WHY NOT? IF WE CAN SAIL BY CROW-FLIGHT, WITHOUT LANDMARKS, WE CAN GO **TWICE** AS FAR AND REAP **FOUR TIMES** THE HARVEST!

THEN IT IS AGREED! ERIC BECOMES **PILOT** OF THE FLEET!



HAVE YOU HEARD OF RAGNAR, MY FATHER? HE WAS HUNTING YOU WHEN HE VANISHED. THERE IS TALK THAT HE IS IN IRELAND, AND OTHER TALK THAT HE IS DEAD.

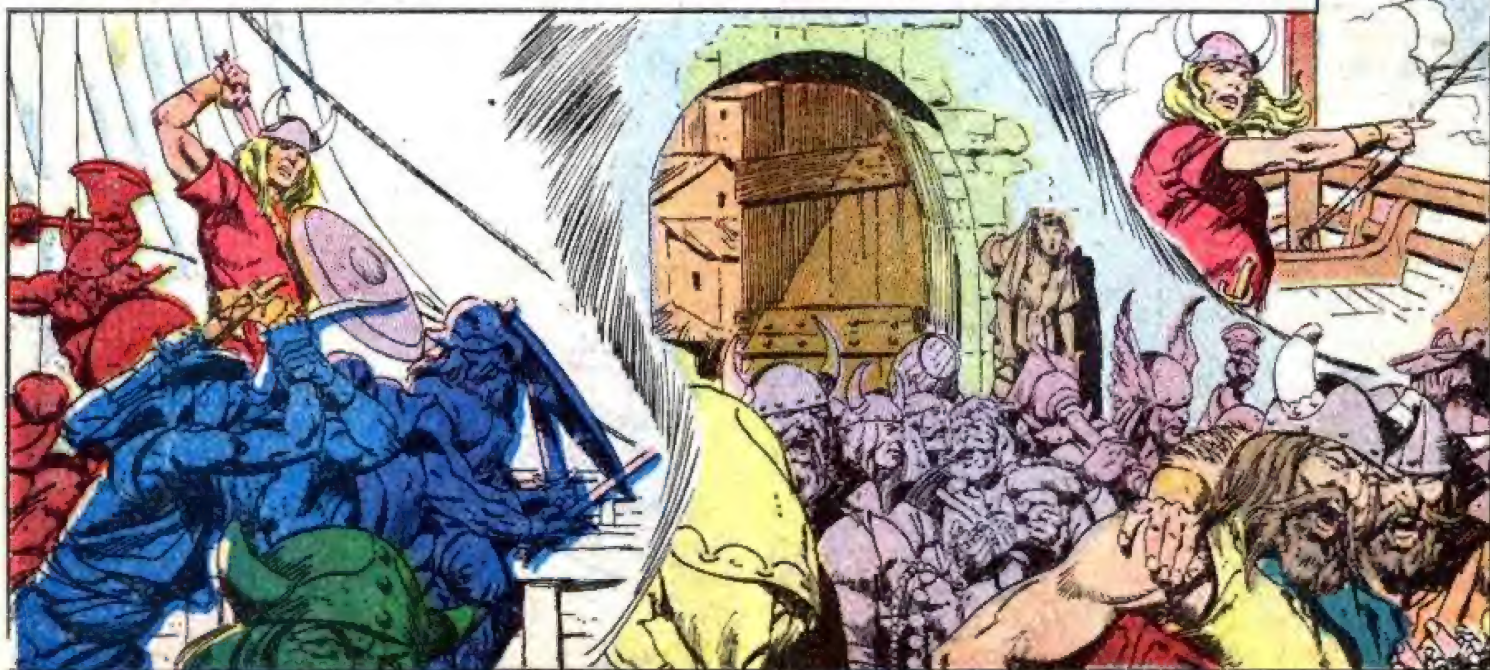
WITH SO MANY **RUMORS** IT'S HARD TO KNOW **WHAT** TO BELIEVE!



IF MY FATHER IS DEAD, THEN **YOU** KILLED HIM!

THE **MIGHTY RAGNAR** KILLED BY A **FORMER SLAVE?** BETTER NOT SAY THAT BEFORE YOUR MEN OR THEY'LL BIND YOU FOR A **MADMAN!**

THAT SUMMER, ERIC GUIDES THE VIKING RAIDERS ALONG THE SHORES OF EUROPE...



THEN, ONE DAY...

I'VE JUST QUESTIONED SOME ENGLISH CAPTIVES. THEY TELL ME THAT RAGNAR MET HIS END AT **AELLA'S COURT**--IN A PIT OF SERPENTS.

A **TERRIBLE VENGEANCE**-- BUT THE NORTHUMBRIANS ALWAYS HATED RAGNAR FOR RAVAGING THEIR LAND!



IT'S A GOOD STORY, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT! WHAT DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE OUR NEXT STEP?

GO TO ENGLAND! YOU'RE SURE TO GET YOUR ANSWER THERE!



TRUE. IN ENGLAND I WOULD LEARN THE TRUTH OF MY FATHER'S FATE--AND PERHAPS GATHER UP SOME RICH LOOT, BESIDES.

I, TOO, HAVE IMPORTANT BUSINESS AWAITING ME IN ENGLAND.



THE NEXT SPRING, THE HUGE VIKING FLEET SETS SAIL FOR ENGLAND...

IT TOOK A LONG TIME, KITTI-- BUT AT LAST I HAVE THE SHIPS AND MEN, AND NOW I CAN RETURN TO **RESCUE MORGANA!**

THINGS GO *TOO WELL* FOR US, ERIC. I'M AFRAID OF MISFORTUNE!



AND WHAT OF MY **TALISMAN**? WILL IT NOT PROTECT ME, KITTI?

IF I COULD READ ITS SECRET, I COULD TELL WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR YOU.



THE FUTURE HOLDS GREAT THINGS FOR ALL OF US--IF WE SHOW COURAGE!

YES. IT IS NOT FOR NOTHING THAT ALAN THE BARD LEFT AELLA'S COURT TO FOLLOW ERIC GYRFALCON.



THREE DAYS LATER, THE VIKINGS SWARM ASHORE IN ENGLAND...



I RIDE SOUTH WITH OUR MAIN ARMY TO CUT OFF ENGLISH REINFORCEMENTS. ERIC, YOU WILL TAKE TEN SHIPS AND FIVE THOUSAND MEN AND MARCH TO YORK.

Aye, Einar! It's a good plan!

WITH FIRE AND SWORD, ERIC AND HIS MEN FIGHT THEIR WAY UPSTREAM TOWARD THE ROYAL CITY OF YORK...



BY TONIGHT I WILL BE OUTSIDE THE WALLS OF AELLA'S CITY! BUT WHAT IF MORGANA IS **NOT THERE?**

MY EYES GROW OLD. THEY SMART IN ALL THIS SMOKE AND FLAME. I CANNOT READ THE FUTURE.

THAT AFTERNOON...



A CAPTIVE IN THE LIVERY OF THE KING'S GUARD. AELLA MUST BE SOMEWHERE CLOSE BY.

WHERE IS AELLA? QUICKLY, **YOUR LIFE** DEPENDS ON THE ANSWER.

AELLA WENT TO LINCOLN TO FETCH MORGANA, WHOM HE HELD THERE AS A CAPTIVE. HE IS RIDING FOR YORK EVEN NOW.



THEN HE MUST CROSS THE RIVER TO GET BACK TO HIS ROYAL CITY. WE WILL **AWAIT** HIM.

THAT NIGHT, ERIC SETS A TRAP AT THE RIVER CROSSING NEAR YORK...



LOOK **THERE!** A SKIFF SLIPPING ACROSS THE RIVER!

QUICKLY! CUT THEM OFF!



IT'S AELLA! HE'S GOING TO SWIM FOR IT!

THE SKIFF IS TURNING OVER! **MORGANA!**



AELLA MUST NOT ESCAPE HIS FATE! TIE HIM UP!



MORGANA! LET ME HELP YOU!

LEAVE ME ALONE. GET YOUR HANDS AWAY FROM ME!



MORGANA, BUT YOU SAID YOU **WANTED** ME TO COME BACK FOR YOU!

DID YOU HAVE TO COME THIS WAY--WITH AN ARMY OF PIRATES, BURNING AND KILLING? NO, I'LL HAVE **NONE** OF YOU, ERIC, THE DANE.



LATER, AT THE VIKING CAMP...

BAH! YOU WOULDN'T HAVE CAUGHT ME IF NOT FOR THAT CURSED SWORD. I COULDN'T LOOSE IT FROM THE SCABBARD!

IT'S A GOOD TOLEDO BLADE, EVEN THOUGH IT HAS A WOODEN POMMEL!



THAT SWORD IS CALLED **AVENGER**! IT BELONGED TO THE OLD ROYAL HOUSE OF NORTHUMBRIA. THE WHOLE ROYAL FAMILY WAS WIPE OUT WHEN RAGNAR RAIDED THE LAND.

AND AELLA **STOLE** THE SWORD WHEN HE STOLE THE THRONE!



THAT THRONE IS YOURS NOW, ERIC, IF YOU WANT IT. I WILL WILLINGLY SERVE YOU AS A VASSAL IF YOU LET ME **LIVE**!

YOU FORGET AELLA, I STILL OWE YOU A GREAT DEBT FOR THE **LOSS** OF MY HAND!



THEN REPAY THAT DEBT THE **WARRIOR'S WAY**-- FIGHT ME IN **SINGLE COMBAT** FOR THIS SWORD-- THE ROYAL SWORD OF NORTHUMBRIA.

I ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE BUT FIRST I MUST SPEAK TO SOMEONE!



MORGANA, IF I TOLD YOU I WAS DONE WITH ALL THE BURNING AND THE KILLING, WOULD YOU COME AWAY WITH ME? WOULD YOU HELP ME SEARCH FOR SOME LAND-- A LAND OF PEACE?

I HAVE HEARD OF SUCH A PLACE. THEY CALL IT **AVALON!** MEN SAY IT IS A LEGEND,

BUT I KNOW WE CAN FIND IT!



THEN WE WILL GO SEARCH FOR AVALON TOGETHER AS SOON AS I REPAY THE DEBTS I OWE TO AELLA!

A DEBT OF **HATRED AND REVENGE!** I KNOW NOW YOU WILL ALWAYS LIVE BY THE SWORD!



GO! DO YOUR WICKEDNESS. BUT **NEVER** COME BACK TO ME!

I GO TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE. BUT I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU, MORGANA!



AT DAWN THE DUEL BEGINS...

A ONE-ARMED MAN FIGHTING THE **MOST FAMOUS SWORDSMAN** IN NORTHUMBRIA! ERIC HASN'T A CHANCE!

ERIC HAS BUT ONE HAND, BUT HIS HEART HAS A **WORLD OF COURAGE!**



AGAIN AND AGAIN, ERIC IS DRIVEN BACKWARD, BUT AT LAST...

THE LAST BLOW WAS **ERIC'S!** **ERIC WINS!**



ERIC, TAKE YOUR PRIZE. AVENGER IS YOURS-- BUT THE WOODEN POMMEL IS BROKEN!

KITTI! WILL CARVE ME ANOTHER OUT OF **IVORY!** IT DOES NOT MATTER. **NOTHING** MATTERS!

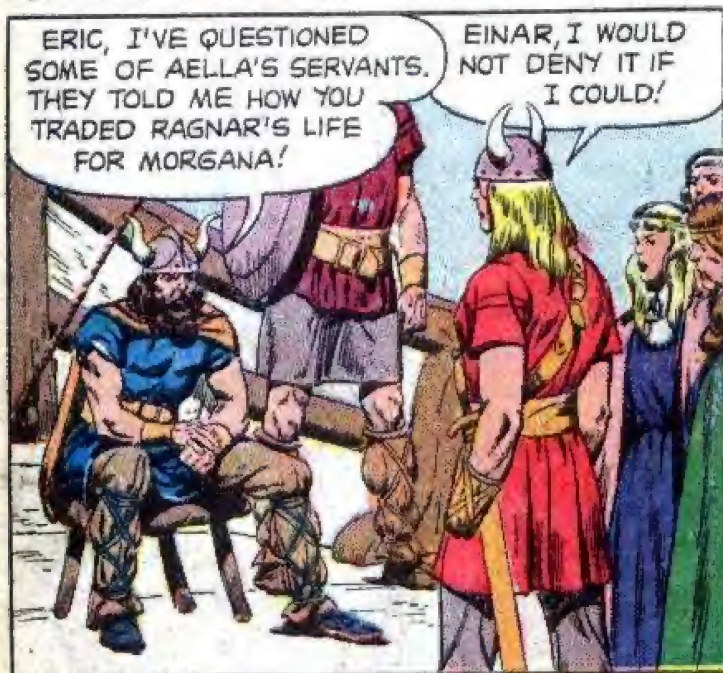
JUST THEN, A MESSENGER ARRIVES...

IMPORTANT NEWS, ERIC! **KING EINAR** DEFEATED THE ENGLISH ARMY. HE IS ON HIS WAY TO YORK. YOU ARE TO AWAIT HIM ABOARD YOUR SHIP!

KING EINAR? SO HE HAS **ALREADY** PROCLAIMED HIMSELF RULER! I DON'T LIKE IT!



THE NEXT DAY ERIC CONFRONTS HIS OLD FOEMAN...



ERIC, I'VE QUESTIONED SOME OF AELLA'S SERVANTS. THEY TOLD ME HOW YOU TRADED RAGNAR'S LIFE FOR MORGANA!

EINAR, I WOULD NOT DENY IT IF I COULD!

I WILL NOT HARM MORGANA OR THE OTHERS WHO FLED WITH YOU FROM THE NORTHLAND-- BUT YOU WILL PAY THE DEATH PRICE--AS SOON AS I DECIDE HOW I WILL TAKE YOUR LIFE!

ERIC--I'VE GOT TO HELP YOU!



AS THE DRAGON SHIPS MAKE FOR THE COAST...



EINAR, MY SISTER'S SON, KUOLA, WILL GUIDE YOUR SHIP DOWN THE RIVER. HAVE I YOUR PERMISSION TO SING THE DEATH SONG OF MY PEOPLE FOR ERIC?

YES, KITTI, AND MAY ERIC ENJOY THE TUNE!

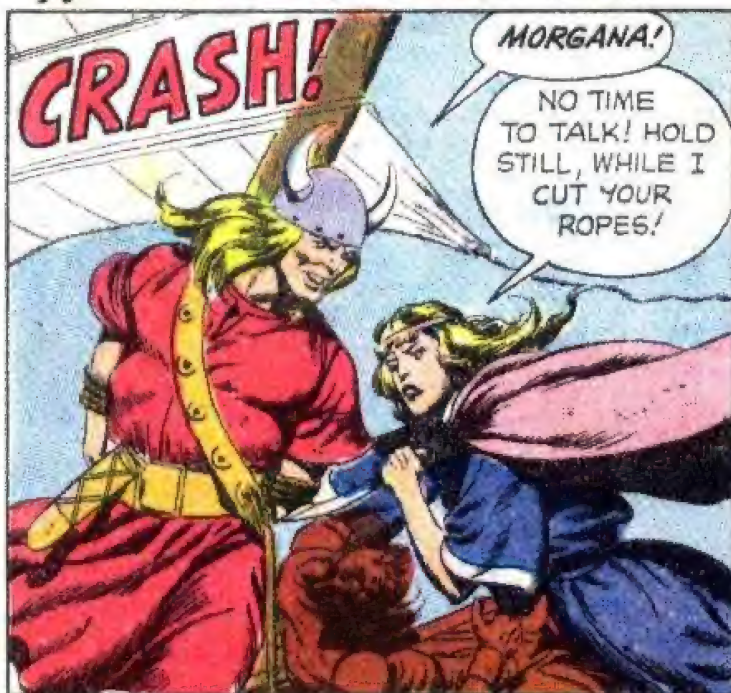
BUT ERIC UNDERSTANDS THE STRANGE LAPLAND TONGUE OF HIS FOSTER MOTHER...

AY! AY! KUOLA WILL GUIDE THE SHIP ONTO THE RIVER ROCKS. ♪ YOUR BONDS WILL BE CUT AS WE STRIKE! ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪

AND I WILL BE READY!



AN INSTANT LATER, THE SHIP STRIKES...





NO, ERIC. THE POMMEL HANGS HERE AT YOUR THROAT! THE **TALISMAN** YOU WORE WHEN THEY BROUGHT YOU TO ME AS A BABE!



GREAT GODS, I REMEMBER THE STORY NOW. IT WAS RUMORED THAT ONLY ONE OF THE ROYAL FAMILY ESCAPED FROM RAGNAR'S VIKINGS--A NEWBORN PRINCE, HEIR TO THE THRONE!

AND YOU ARE **THAT PRINCE**, ERIC--THE **RIGHTFUL** KING OF NORTHUMBRIA!



HURRAH FOR ERIC! WE CHOOSE ERIC GYRFALCON FOR OUR KING!



SINCE YOU CHOOSE ME FREELY I WILL TAKE THE THRONE, BUT **ONLY** IF MORGANA WILL SIT BESIDE ME AS **QUEEN OF ENGLAND**!



NO, ERIC. I WILL NOT RULE A KINGDOM WON BY **FIRE AND SWORD**!

I FOUGHT TOO HARD FOR YOU TO GIVE YOU UP NOW, MORGANA. MY VIKING BROTHERS WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE ANOTHER KING!



BROTHERS, I AND MORGANA SAIL WESTWARD TO FIND A LAND OF PEACE--THE ISLE OF AVALON. WHO WILL GO WITH US?

I WILL!

AND I!

AND I!

LONG YEARS LATER, IN THE HALL OF A GREAT CASTLE, AN OLD MINSTREL FINISHES HIS SONG...



AND NOW THAT I'VE SUNG OF HOW ERIC AND MORGANA SET SAIL FOR AVALON--MY SONG IS ENDED.

BUT **WHAT HAPPENED** TO THE SHIP? WAS IT **EVER** HEARD FROM?

"THEY SAY THAT THE PEOPLE OF AVALON WERE OF A REDDISH COLOR. KITTI THOUGHT THEY WERE DISTANT COUSINS OF HER TRIBE..."



"IT IS SAID THAT ERIC FOUND THE FABLED LAND AT LAST, FAR TO THE WEST!"



"IT WAS A LAND OF PEACE AND PLENTY, SWARMING WITH WONDROUS CREATURES..."



IT IS SAID THAT ERIC AND HIS BAND TRAVELED WESTWARD TOWARD THE LAND OF THE BLUE WATER. WHO KNOWS BUT SOMEDAY THOSE WHO COME AFTER THEM MAY FIND THEIR STORY CARVED IN STONE?



ALAN, IS THE STORY OF ERIC THE DANE **REALLY** TRUE?

IT MUST BE TRUE, FOR ONCE WE SINGERS BEGIN TO DOUBT, IT WILL USHER IN THE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS!



A MYSTERY IN STONE

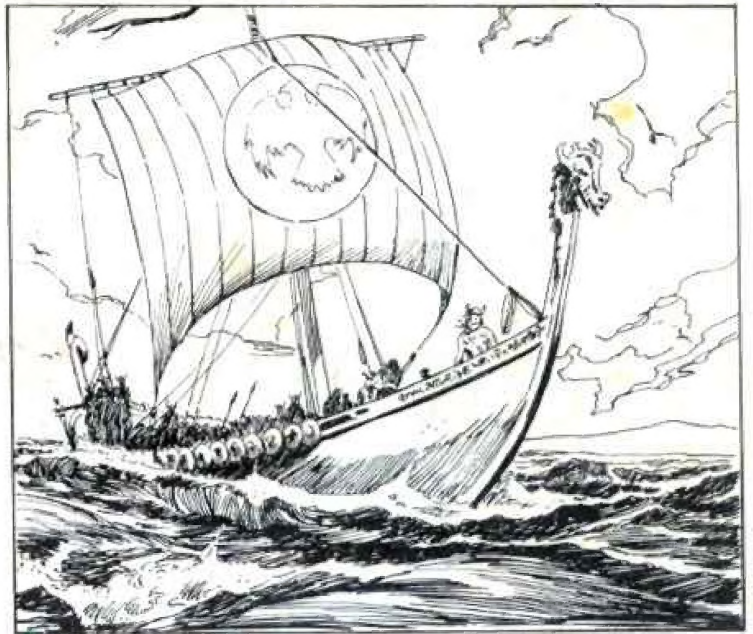
IN 1898, A MINNESOTA FARMER FOUND A STONE WHOSE FACE WAS CARVED WITH RUNES--- LETTERS IN THE NORSE TONGUE. THE RUNES TOLD A STRANGE STORY.



THE VIKINGS HAD LEFT TEN MEN TO GUARD THEIR BOAT AND PLUNGED INTO THE WILDERNESS.



THE CARVINGS TOLD OF A PARTY OF NORSEMEN ON AN EXPLORATION JOURNEY FROM VINLAND TO THE WEST.



WEEKS LATER THE EXPLORERS CAME TO A LARGE LAKE. SOME OF THEM HAD GONE FISHING. WHEN THEY RETURNED THEY FOUND THEIR COMPANIONS SLAIN.



HERE THE TALE ENDS JUST AS THE WRITER CARVED IT IN STONE. THE REST OF THE STORY REMAINS A SECRET, PERHAPS FOREVER.



IS THE STONE GENUINE? FOR GENERATIONS SCIENTISTS HAVE ARGUED. DID THE VIKINGS EXPLORE AMERICA CENTURIES BEFORE COLUMBUS? IS AMERICA THE FABLED LAND OF AVALON?



VIKING CONQUESTS

THE VIKING AGE BEGAN EARLY IN THE NINTH CENTURY WHEN THE NORSE AND THEIR DRAGON SHIPS CROSSED THE SEAS TO CONQUER IRELAND.



THE VIKINGS SWARMED OVER GERMANY AND THE LOWLANDS. BY 885 THEY WERE BESIEGING PARIS. ONLY A LARGE RANSOM SAVED THE CITY.



BUT THE NORSE WERE MORE THAN PIRATES. BY THE 10TH CENTURY THEY HAD COLONIZED RUSSIA, AND WERE TRADING FURS IN CONSTANTINOPLE.



IN 865 A GREAT VIKING FLEET INVADED ENGLAND WITH FIRE AND SWORD. ONLY ALFRED THE GREAT KEPT THEM FROM CONQUERING THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.



THE DRAGON SHIPS SAILED SOUTHWARD TO SPAIN AND ITALY. THEY FOUGHT THE ARABS FOR CONTROL OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA.



A PLEDGE **DELL** TO PARENTS
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